

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 6, in the "Brief Description of the Drawing" section, after the paragraph that begins with the words "Fig. 5 is . . .," please add the following two new paragraphs:

Fig. 6 shows a TEM photograph of a barium titanate powder. In the photograph, defects (voids) resulting from removal of hydroxyl groups are not observed.

Fig. 7 is an infrared spectrum of a barium titanate sample in which no abrupt peak is detected at around 3500cm^{-1} .

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The "defects resulting from removal of hydroxyl groups" refers to "voids" having a diameter of 1 nm or more detected through TEM observation in which thin film produced from barium titanate particles is preferably observed. Such defects or voids are of a type similar to that shown in FIG. 3 (denoted by numeral 22) in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (kokai) No. 11-273986. FIG. 1 is a TEM photograph showing a barium titanate powder produced in a Comparative Example (photographed at a magnification of 150,000, but in reduced scale in the attached drawing). Since foam-like voids can be identified in the particles observed in the photograph of Fig. 1, the voids are determined to be defects resulting from removal of hydroxyl groups. Fig. 6 is a TEM photograph showing a barium titanate powder produced in accordance with the present invention (photographed at a magnification of 150,000, but in reduced scale in Fig. 6). Voids cannot be identified in the particles observed in Fig. 6.

Please add the following paragraph at page 22, before the heading "Example 2:"

Fig. 6 is a TEM photograph showing a barium titanate powder produced in this Example (photographed at a magnification of 150,000, but in reduced scale in Fig. 6). Voids cannot be identified in the particles observed in Fig. 6.